

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Reconsideration of this application in light of the above amendments and following comments is courteously solicited.

The dependency of dependent claim 16 has been amended so as to depend from dependent claim 14 thereby rendering the Examiner's rejection under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as set forth in paragraph 1 of page 2 of the Office action moot.

In addition to the foregoing, independent claim 13 has been amended to include the subject matter of dependent claim 17 (which depended directly from independent claim 13) which was indicated allowable by the Examiner. Accordingly, independent claim 13 and all of the claims which depend therefrom are now in condition for allowance and the early issuance of a formal notice of allowance is respectfully requested.

An earnest and thorough attempt has been made by the undersigned to resolve the outstanding issues in this case and place same in condition for allowance. If the Examiner has any questions or feels that a telephone or personal interview would be helpful in resolving any outstanding issues which remain in this application after consideration of this amendment, the Examiner is courteously invited to telephone the undersigned and the same would be gratefully appreciated.

It is submitted that the claims as amended herein patentably define over the art relied on by the Examiner and early allowance of same is courteously solicited.

If any fees are required in connection with this case, it is respectfully requested that they be charged to Deposit Account No. 02-0184.

Respectfully submitted,

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